

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 PA-01 ICA-11 /071 W
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R 011524Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3244
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, NU, PORG, VE
SUBJECT: OAS EXPLORES TRIPARTITE PROCEDURE ON LABOR ISSUES

REF: SECSTATE 186396 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: FORMER SECRETARY OF LABOR WIRTZ VISITED
CARACAS JULY 27-28 IN A FOUR-COUNTRY TOUR AS REPRESENTATIVE
OF OAS SECGEN TO EXPLORE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRILATERAL
MACHINERY IN OAS TO HANDLE SOCIAL/LABOR ISSUES. FORMER
ARGENTINE LABOR MINISTER SAN SEBASTIAN IS TOURING SEVERAL
OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING ARGENTINA AND MEXICO ON
IDENTICAL MISSION. WIRTZ EMPHASIZED POINT HERE THAT
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PROPOSED TRILATERAL PROCEDURE WOULD BE WITHIN OAS AND
WOULD NOT BE COMPETITIVE WITH ILO. WIRTZ/SAN SEBASTIAN
REPORT TO SECGEN PROBABLY WILL PROVIDE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION
AT LIMA INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF LABOR
MINISTERS IN NOVEMBER ON ESTABLISHMENT OF TRILATERAL
MACHINERY. WIRTZ VISIT HERE APPEARED TO REASSURE
VENEZUELANS THAT NEW PROCEDURE WOULD NOT INTERFERE

WITH VENEZUELAN RELATIONSHIP WITH ILO. END SUMMARY.

1. FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF LABOR WILLARD WIRTZ VISITED CARACAS JULY 27-28 AS REPRESENTATIVE OF OAS SECRETARY GENERAL TO EXPLORE REACTIONS OF VENEZUELAN LABOR MINISTRY, TRADE UNION AND BUSINESS OFFICIALS REGARDING PROPOSAL FOR OAS TRIPARTITE PROCEDURE TO DEAL WITH SOCIAL AND LABOR ISSUES. PROPOSAL EMERGED FROM SEPARATE MEETINGS IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1977 OF OAS COMMISSIONS REPRESENTING GOVERNMENTS (COTPAL), LABOR (CEPCOSTATE) AND MANAGEMENT (CEATAL) REPORTED 1977 STATE 305616. WIRTZ VISITED TO FOUR COUNTRIES LISTED REFTEL TO EXPLORE PROPOSAL ON BEHALF OF OAS IS COMPANION TRIP TO VISIT BY FORMER ARGENTINE LABOR MINISTER REUBENS SAN SEBASTIAN TO SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING MEXICO AND ARGENTINA. WIRTZ AND SAN SEBASTAIN WILL BE PREPARING A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL WHO WILL SUBMIT THEM TO THE INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF LABOR MINISTER SCHEDULED FOR LIMA IN LATE NOVEMBER. PROPOSAL AND WIRTZ-SAN SEBASTIAN STUDY IS OF POLITICAL INTEREST IN VIEW OF CONTROVERSY STIMULATED IN ARGENTINE PRESS IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1977 (SEE 1977 BUENOS AIRES 7893, 9052 (NOTAL) AND CARRIED IN PRESS ELSEWHERE INCLUDING VENEZUELA. (1977 CARACAS 11747). THESE STORIES SUGGESTED PROPOSAL WAS AFL/CIO INSTRUMENT TO SUPPLANT ILO ACTIVITIES IN HEMISPHERE.

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2. WIRTZ MADE CALLS JULY 28, ARRANGED BY LOCAL OAS REP, ON VICE MINISTER OF LABOR FERMIN HUIZI CORDERO; CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) PRESIDENT JOSE VARGAS AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY, MANUEL PENALVER. AT WIRTZ' REQUEST EMBASSY ARRANGED APPOINTMENT FOR HIM WITH FEDECAMARAS (CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE) LEGAL COUNSEL VINCENCIO BAEZ FINOL, A MEETING WHICH EMBASSY OFFICERS ATTENDED.

3. WIRTZ MADE FOLLOWING BASIC POINTS IN HIS CALLS REGARDING TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS AND PROBABLE RECOMMENDATIONS REACHED BY HIM AND SAN SEBASTIAN WHICH THEY WOULD SUBMIT TO OAS SECRETARY GENERAL. CONCLUSIONS WERE THAT NO NEW TRIPARTITE ORGANIZATION OUTSIDE OF OAS SHOULD BE FORMED AND NEW PROCEDURE SHOULD IN NO WAY WEAKEN ILO TIES; THAT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BUDGET IN OAS HAD BEEN CUT TOO MUCH; AND THAT A NEW TRIPARTITE PROCEDURE COULD STRENGTHEN THE OAS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. THE TENTATIVE RECOMMENDATION TO THE OAS WILL BE THAT NEW PROCEDURE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE OAS FOCUSSED ON AN ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINISTER OF LABOR FROM THE HOST COUNTRY OF THE PREVIOUS INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF LABOR MINISTERS (IACLM), A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LABOR MINISTERS' REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OAS AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES EACH

FROM THE TRIPARTITE COMMISSIONS: CEATAL, COTPAL AND COSATE.
THIS GROUP WOULD (A) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IACLM
(B) CONSIDER BUDGETARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
(C) CONSIDER USEFUL PROGRAMS PROPOSED BY THE TRIPARTITE COMMISSIONS
(D) GIVE ADVICE TO THE OAS WITH THE RIGHT OF DIRECT ACCESS TO THE
SECRETARY GENERAL (E) CONSIDER FUNDING OFFERS FROM OUTSIDE
SOURCES IF SUFFICIENT OAS FUNDS WERE NOT AVAILABLE FOR DESIRABLE
PROGRAMS.

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4. WIRTZ FOUND HIS VENEZUELAN AUDIENCE RECEPTIVE TO
THESE POTENTIAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS; THE
VENEZUELAN WERE PARTICULARLY RELIEVED WITH
ASSURANCES THAT THE TRIPARTITE MACHINERY WOULD BE WITHIN
THE OAS AND WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP PARRALLEL MACHINERY
TO ILO EFFORTS. BAEZ OF THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE NOTED
CANDIDLY THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT LABOR
VICE MINISTER HUIZI HAD TOLD WIRTZ BUT THAT A WEEK AGO
HUIZI HAD EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM TO BAEZ ABOUT
THE OAS TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL, FEARING IT WOULD BE COMPETITIVE TO THE
ILO. WIRTZ RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT HUIZI WAS REASSURED IN
THEIR JULY 28 MEETING THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE. WIRTZ

REPORTED TO EMBOFF THAT CTV SECRETARY PENALVER HAD SUGGESTED THAT
LABOR AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES HAD MORE NATURAL COINCIDENCE
OF VIEW AND OBJECTIVES ON SOCIAL/LABOR ISSUES
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THAN DID MANAGEMENT BUT HE DID NOT ARGUE AGAINST THE
TRIPARTITE CONCEPT WHEN WIRTZ ELABORATED THE FULL SCOPE OF HIS
AND SAN SEBASTIAN'S IDEAS.

5. WIRTZ LEFT CARACAS WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE
VENEZUELAN'S WILL ACCEPT THE TRIPARTITE CONCEPT AS EVOLVED
BY HIM AND SAN SEBASTIAN IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS
HELD WITH INTERESTED OFFICIALS ON THEIR TRIPS.

6. COMMENT: THE ABOVE REPORT IS BASED ON THE EMBASSY'S OWN INFOR-
MATION ON THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON THE OAS TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL
AND ON WIRTZ' CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY REGARDING HIS MEETINGS
IN CARACAS. THE EMBASSY IS CONFIDENT THAT THE WIRTZ/SAN SEBASTIAN
CONCEPT OF A TRIPARTITE PROCEDURE RPT PROCEDURE WITHIN THE OAS WILL
BE MUCH MORE PALATABLE TO THE VENEZUELAN'S THAN THE IDEA OF AN
AUTONOMOUS "LABOR ORGANIZATION FOR AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN" (OTAC) OUTLINED IN 1977 STATE 305616. WE THINK THE
VENEZUELAN'S CAN BUY AN OAS PROGRAM WHICH DOES NOT UNDERMINE
VENEZUELA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ILO.
CROWLEY

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